



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District  
4155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



# Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	ASJ-200310270
EVALUATOR:	Ms. A. Susan Jarvis
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5146
FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
E-MAIL:	regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil
DATE:	May 11, 2004
EXPIRATION DATE:	June 1, 2004

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has a copy of the application on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:  
Louisiana Department of  
Transportation and Development  
Post Office Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Name of Agent:  
Mr. Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
Louisiana TIMED Managers, Inc.  
Suite 200  
6300 Corporate Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Location of Work: Sections 4, 38, 41, and 42 of T13N-R4E; sections 1, 12, 13, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, and 47 of T14N-R3E; sections 18, 19, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, and 48 of T14N-R4E; sections 5, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 30, 31, 38, and 39 of T15N-R4E and sections 30, 31, 32, and 37 of T16N-R4E, latitude 32°12'5" longitude 92°06'50", within the Beouf and Lower Ouachita drainage basins, Caldwell and Ouachita Parishes, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to mechanically clear and fill 6.165 acres of wetlands and 1.506 acres of other waters of the United States associated with the construction and maintenance of the widening and overlay of U.S. Highway 165.

The project would begin on U.S. Highway 165 approximately 0.2 mile north of the intersection with Louisiana Highway 4 north of Columbia, Louisiana, and extend in a northerly direction, ending approximately 0.7 mile south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 165 with Louisiana Highway 841. At the project start, the existing roadway north of Columbia, Louisiana to the intersection of U.S. Highway 165 with Louisiana Highway 847 would remain in place where appropriate. Two new lanes of asphaltic concrete roadway, separated from the existing roadway with a 60-foot wide depressed median would be constructed parallel to the existing highway. A portion of the new lanes would run parallel to and west of the existing roadway from STA. 123+00 to 193+00. A portion of the new lanes would run parallel to and east of the existing roadway from STA. 193+00 to 236+00. A portion of the new lanes would run parallel to and west of the existing roadway from STA. 237+00 to 291+00. A new four-lane roadway with a new alignment to reduce curves would be constructed from STA. 291+00 to 342+00. A portion of the new lanes would run parallel to and east of the existing roadway from STA. 345+00 to 466+00. From the intersection of Louisiana Highway 847 to the Ouachita Parish line, the existing roadway would remain in place for northbound traffic while the new lanes would be constructed for the southbound traffic to the east of the existing roadway from STA. 446+25 to 484+00. A new four-lane portion would be constructed along a new alignment to cross an existing railroad from STA. 484+00 to 515+00. The new railroad crossing would require the construction of twin overpasses. A portion of the new two-lanes would be constructed to the west of the existing roadway from STA. 518+00 to 795+90. From the Caldwell Parish line to Louisiana Highway 841, the new lanes would be constructed for the southbound traffic from STA. 99+21 to 333+37 to the west of the current roadway for the northbound traffic.

Roadbed dimensions for the new two-lane highway would average 40 feet top width and 95 feet bottom width. The average cleared right-of-way width would be 245 feet to a maximum of 450 feet at the Connector Road intersection with U.S. Highway 165. The project would require approximately 181,000 cubic yards of general excavation and 600,800 cubic yards of embankment. The project length would be approximately 17.4 miles.

The purpose of the work is to widen and upgrade the existing U.S. Highway 165 roadway, to provide a four lane northeast-southwest link between I-20 at Monroe, Louisiana and I-10 at Lake Charles, Louisiana, to improve vehicular mobility and to improve accessibility along the U.S. Highway 165 corridor by increasing the safety and level of service of the highway.

The proposed project calls for the existing U.S. Highway 165 from 0.2 mile north of the intersection with Louisiana Highway 4 in Caldwell Parish to 0.7 mile south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 165 with Louisiana 841 in Ouachita Parish to be four-laned and upgraded to meet current transportation standards. This proposed project is the result of legislation created in 1989 known as the Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED), which designated certain highways and transportation facilities for improvement. One objective of the TIMED program is to ensure that a four-laned highway connects most major urban areas of the state. The four-laning of the U.S. Highway 165 is an important element in linking central Louisiana with areas of north Louisiana to the Arkansas state line.

A total of 32 sites were delineated and 19 sites were identified as wetlands that would be impacted by the project. Sites C01 to C04 cover an area located in the vicinity of Station No. (STA.) 119+00 to 165+00 and would impact approximately 0.56 acre of wetlands. Sites C06 to C09 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 171+50 to 296 and would impact approximately 3.1 acres of wetlands. Site C12 was located in the vicinity of STA. 315+25 to 320+25 and would impact approximately 0.06 acre of wetlands. Site C15 was located in the vicinity of STA. 419+00 to 445+50 and would impact approximately 0.56 acre of wetlands. Sites OL02 to OL06 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 466+75 to 519+25 and would impact approximately 0.776 acre of wetlands. Sites OL08 and OL09 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 550+00 to 588+25 and would impact approximately 0.161 acre of wetlands. Site OL11 was located in the vicinity of STA. 664+00 to 683+75 and would impact approximately 0.773 acre of wetlands. Site OL13 was located in the vicinity of STA. 717+50 to 722+50 and would impact approximately 0.175 acre of wetlands.

The dominant species of vegetation at the 19 delineated wetland sites include: *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, *Andropogon* sp., *Carex* sp., *Celtis laevigata*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Cyperus* sp., *Eleocharis* sp., *Hydrocotyle umbellata*, *Juncus* sp., *Ligustrum sinense*, *Lonicera japonica*, *Ludwigia* sp., *Paspalum uvillei*, *Rumex crispus*, *Sesbania* sp., *Smilax* sp., *Toxicodendron radicans*, and *Trifolium* sp.

A total of approximately 6.165 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project, including the cleared right-of-way. The applicant proposes to begin mitigation for the wetlands being impacted by construction activities for this project by minimizing impacts in accordance with their standard specifications. Unavoidably lost wetland functions and values would be appropriately mitigated.

A total of 1.506 acres of other waters of the United States would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project including the cleared right-of-way. Of the 32 delineated sites, 13 sites were identified as other waters of the United States. The locations and amounts of impacts for these sites are shown in the Wetland Delineation Site Summary Tables (C and OL sites).

The proposed bridge over Ballard Bayou would be a concrete slab span bridge and would be located in the vicinity of STA. 694+75 to 697+25. There would be no wetland and "other waters" impacts associated with the bridge construction.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing and levee construction requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Caldwell and Ouachita Parishes listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State



Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp>, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp>.

W. Harold Lee  
Team Leader  
Evaluation Section







**WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 1**  
**STATE PROJECT NO. 015-07-0043**  
**U.S. Highway 165 – Columbia-Jct Louisiana Highway 847**  
**Caldwell Parish**  
**Sites (C01-C15)**

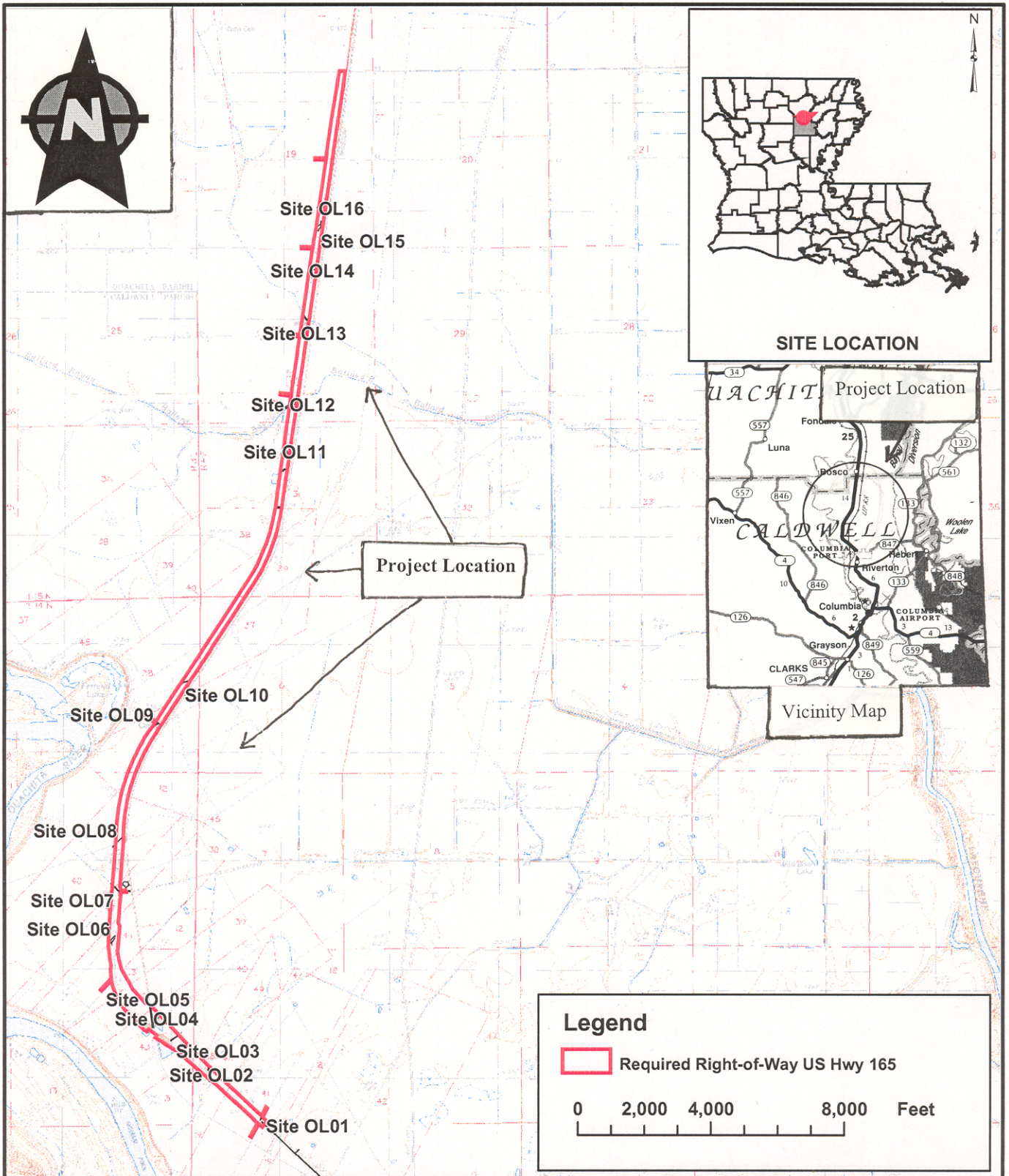
Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters	
C01	119+00	123+75	0.03	--	HW
C02	123+00	129+75	0.09	0.11	RSD/D
C03	132+50	133+00	0.08	--	HW
C04	152+00	165+00	0.36	--	RSD/D
C05	170+75	170+75	--	--	NJD
C06	171+50	191+00	0.84	--	HW/RSD
C07	212+00	230+00	1.4	--	RSD
C08	232+50	287+00	0.41	0.02	RSD/D
C09	283+75	296+00	0.45	0.10	RSD/D
C10	299+50	300+75	--	0.05	D
C11	303+25	304+25	--	0.07	D
C12	315+25	316+50	0.06	0.12	RSD/D
	318+50	320+25			
C13	326+50	326+50	--	0.13	D
C14	359+50	395+00	--	--	NJD
C15	419+00	445+50	0.56	--	RSD
<b>Totals</b>			4.28	0.60	

Legend: HW – Herbaceous Wetland, RSD – Roadside Ditch, D – Drain,  
NJD – Non-jurisdictional Drain

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### PROJECT LOCATION MAP

US Highway 165, JCT. LA 847 to Ouachita Line, Caldwell Parish  
State Project No. 015-07-0044

USGS 7.5 Minute Series Quadrangles



Figure: 03 of 28

Date: March 2004

Scale: 1:48,000

Source: USGS/GEC

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**WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 2**  
**STATE PROJECT NO. 023-10-0044**  
**U.S. Highway 165, Jct. Louisiana Highway 847 to Ouachita Parish Line**  
**Caldwell Parish, Louisiana**  
**SITES (OL01-OL16)**

Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters	
OL01	446+25	446+25	--	--	NJD
OL02	466+75	469+00	0.132	0.074	HW/D
OL03	482+25	482+25	0.102	--	D
OL04	486+50	490+25	0.218	--	SS
OL05	488+50	493+75	0.207	--	D
OL06	517+00	519+25	0.117	--	D
OL07	535+00	537+00	--	0.215	D
OL08	550+00	551+00	0.028	--	D
OL09	586+75	588+25	0.133	--	D
OL10	602+75	604+25	--	0.106	D
OL11	664+00	683+75	0.773	0.1	HW-D/P
OL12	694+75	697+25	--	0.25	BB
OL13	717+50	718+75	0.175	0.161	D
	721+50	722+50			
OL14	736+00	736+00	--	--	NJD
OL15	748+25	751+00	--	--	PC
OL16	758+00	758+00	--	--	NJD
<b>Totals</b>			<b>1.885</b>	<b>0.906</b>	

Legend: NJD – Non-jurisdictional drain, HW – Herbaceous Wetland, D – Drain, SS–Shrub/Scrub Wetland, P – Pond, BB – Ballard Bayou, PC – Prior Converted

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